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Congress of the United States

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

(CREATED PURSUANT TO SEC. 6(a) OF PUBLIC LAW 304, 79TH CONGRESS)

Washington, DC 20510

January 15, 1988

OCA FILE

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The Honorable William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Judge Webster:

The Joint Economic Committee has initiated a new study of the Economies of East Europe and Yugoslavia, updating the study entitled East European Economies: Slow Growth in the 1980's, published in 1985-1986. I am writing to invite contributions to this effort from analysts of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The East Europe project is one of a triannual series that includes the Soviet Union and China. A two-volume Soviet study, Gorbachev's Economic Plans, published in December 1987, contained several very valuable papers prepared by CIA analysts and, in fact, the CIA has contributed to all of the studies in this series going back to the late 1950's. These volumes have been one of the more useful and authoritative reference sources on the economies of the Communist countries.

In the present East European Study, we intend to focus on the effects of General Secretary Gorbachev's policy of economic restructuring on the economies of East Europe. We also hope to address growing concerns about the accuracy of Western estimates concerning GNP and growth rates of the East European countries.

Richard F. Kaufman of the JEC staff and John P. Hardt of the Congressional Research Service, the coordinators and editors of the volumes, would like to discuss details of the project with your staff.

Your cooperation and assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Paul S. Sarbanes
Chairman